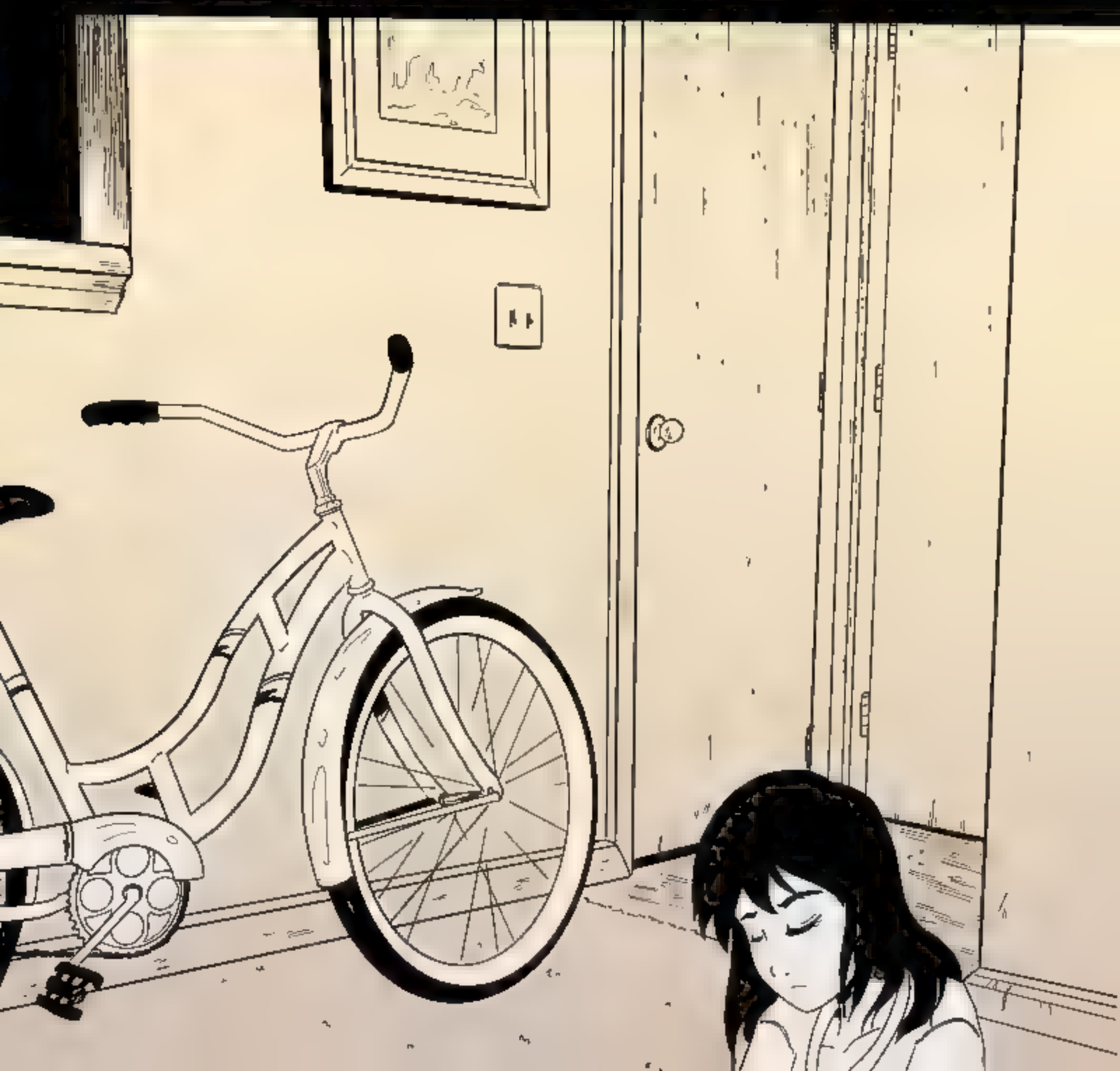
DESPITE WHAT I WENT THROUGH IN THE STORAGE ROOM, I FELT PRETTY CALM THE NEXT DAY.

HOBBIES HELP ME RELAX.

CAROUSEL

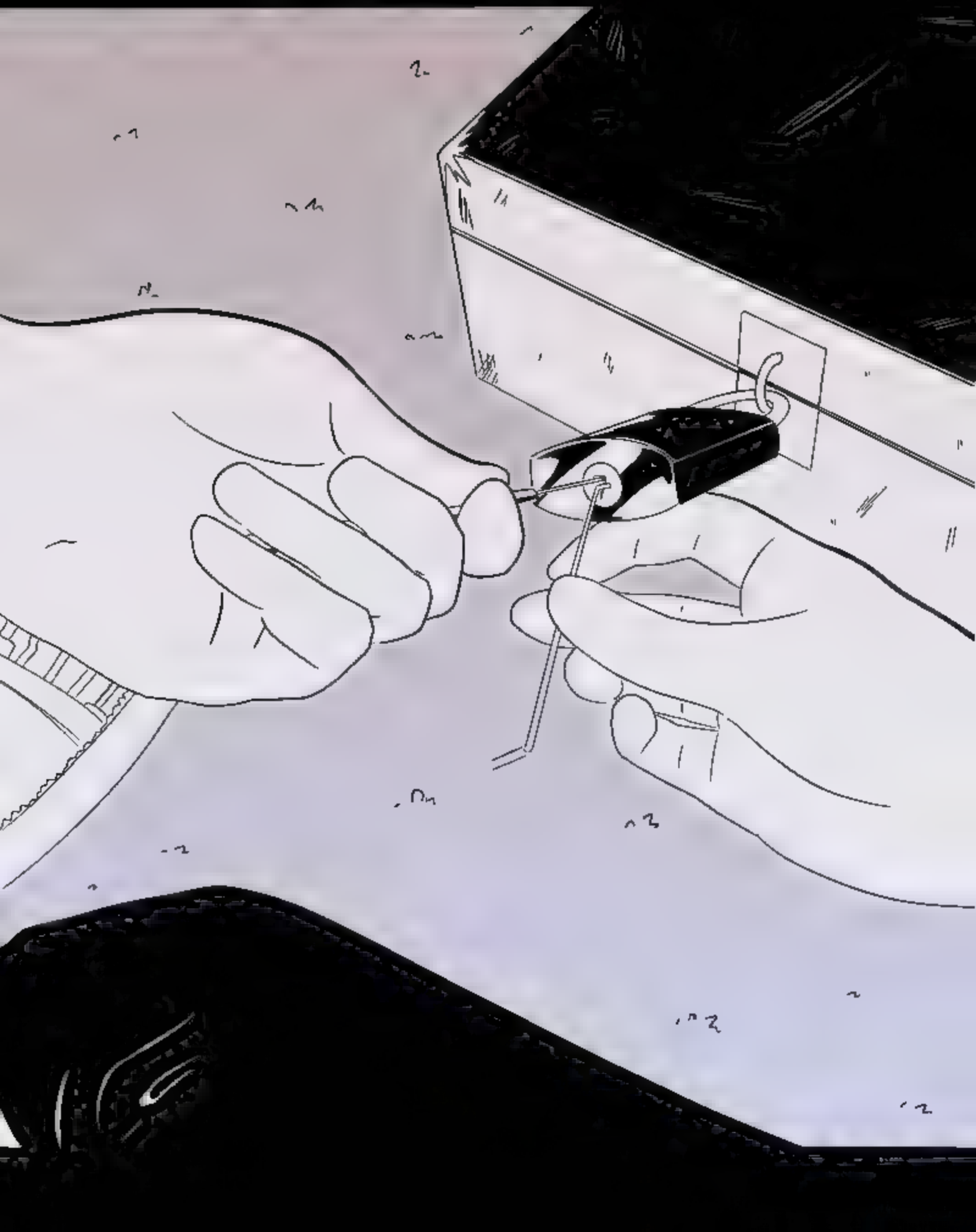
part four



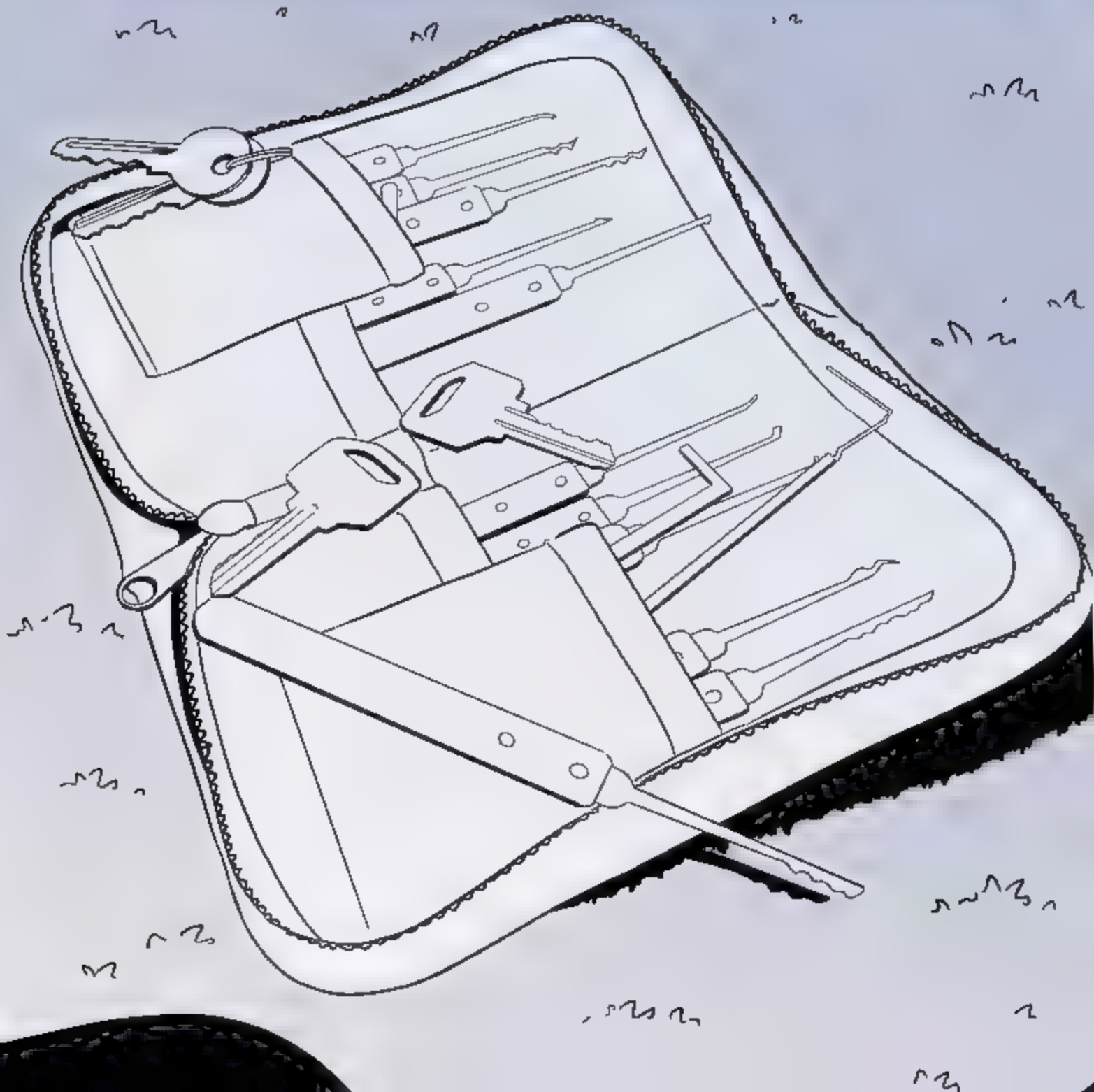
FIRST THING ON THE AGENDA WAS TO EAT BREAKFAST, THEN OPEN JEREMY'S LOCKBOX.

LOCKPICKING ISN'T LIKE ON TV, WHERE IT TAKES JUST THREE SECONDS OF WIGGLING A

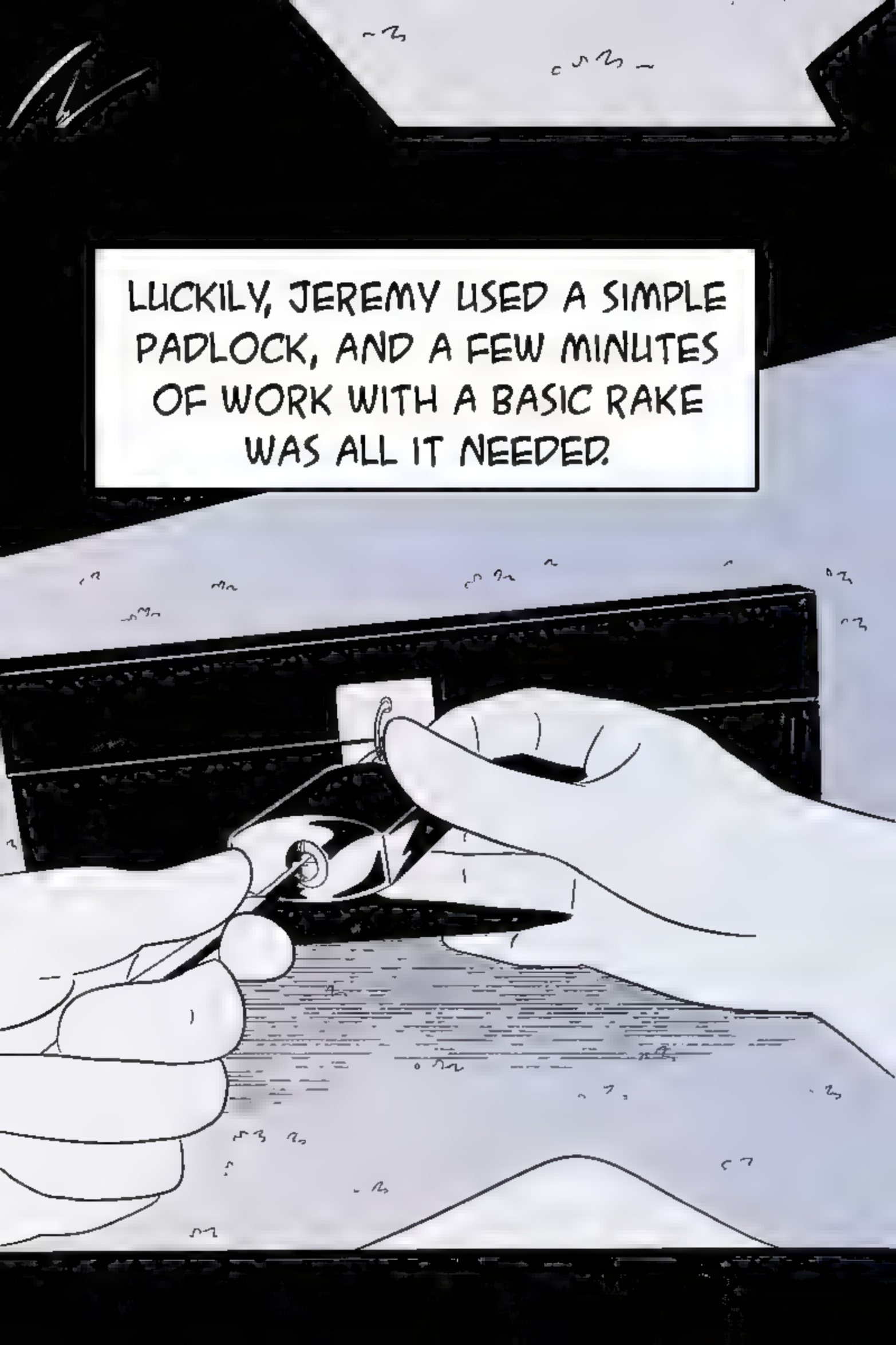
HAIRPIN INSIDE A LOCK.



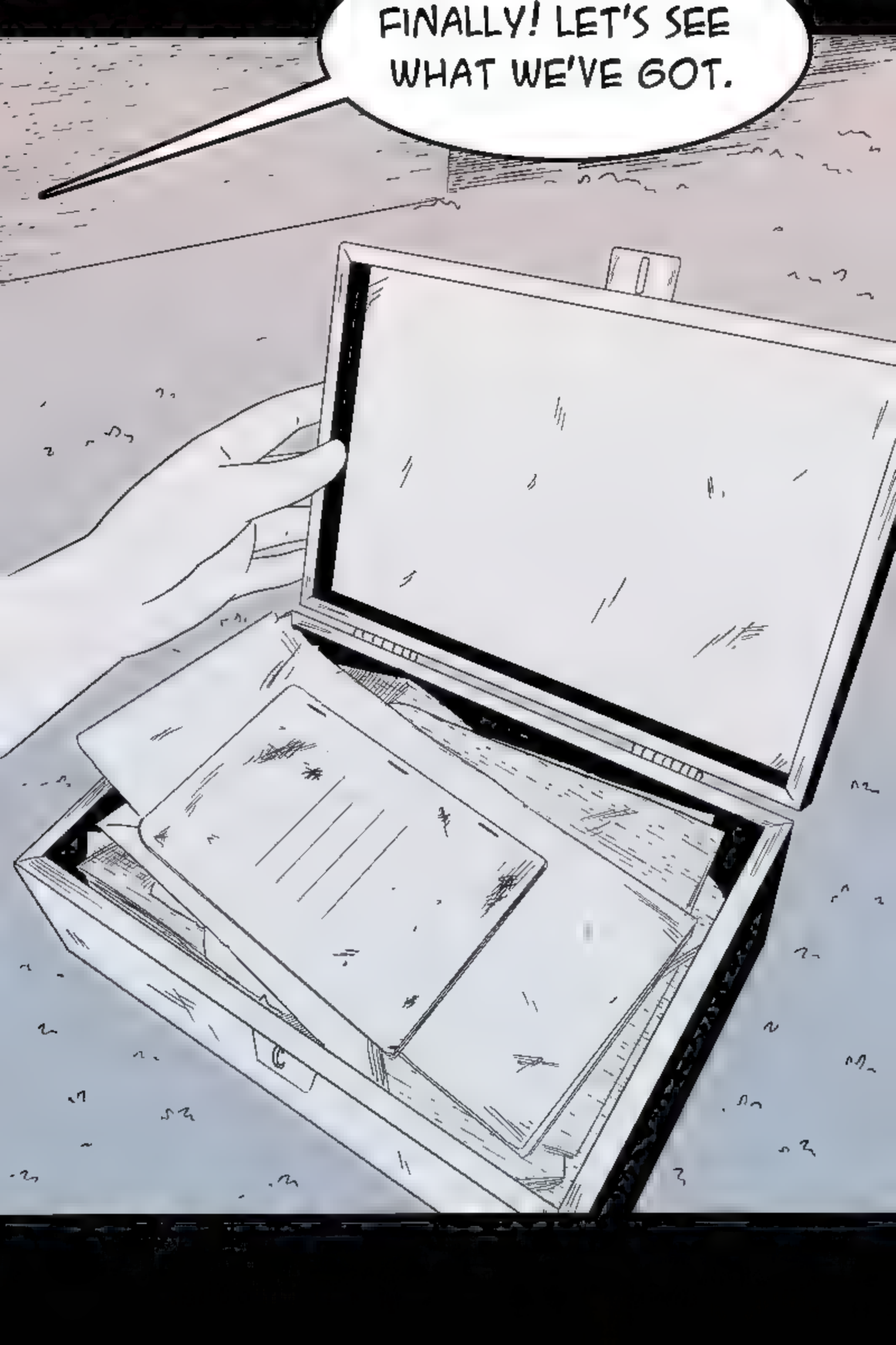
YOU NEED THE RIGHT PICK KIT AND A FEW TRIES, IF YOU'VE NEVER PICKED THAT SPECIFIC MODEL OF LOCK BEFORE.



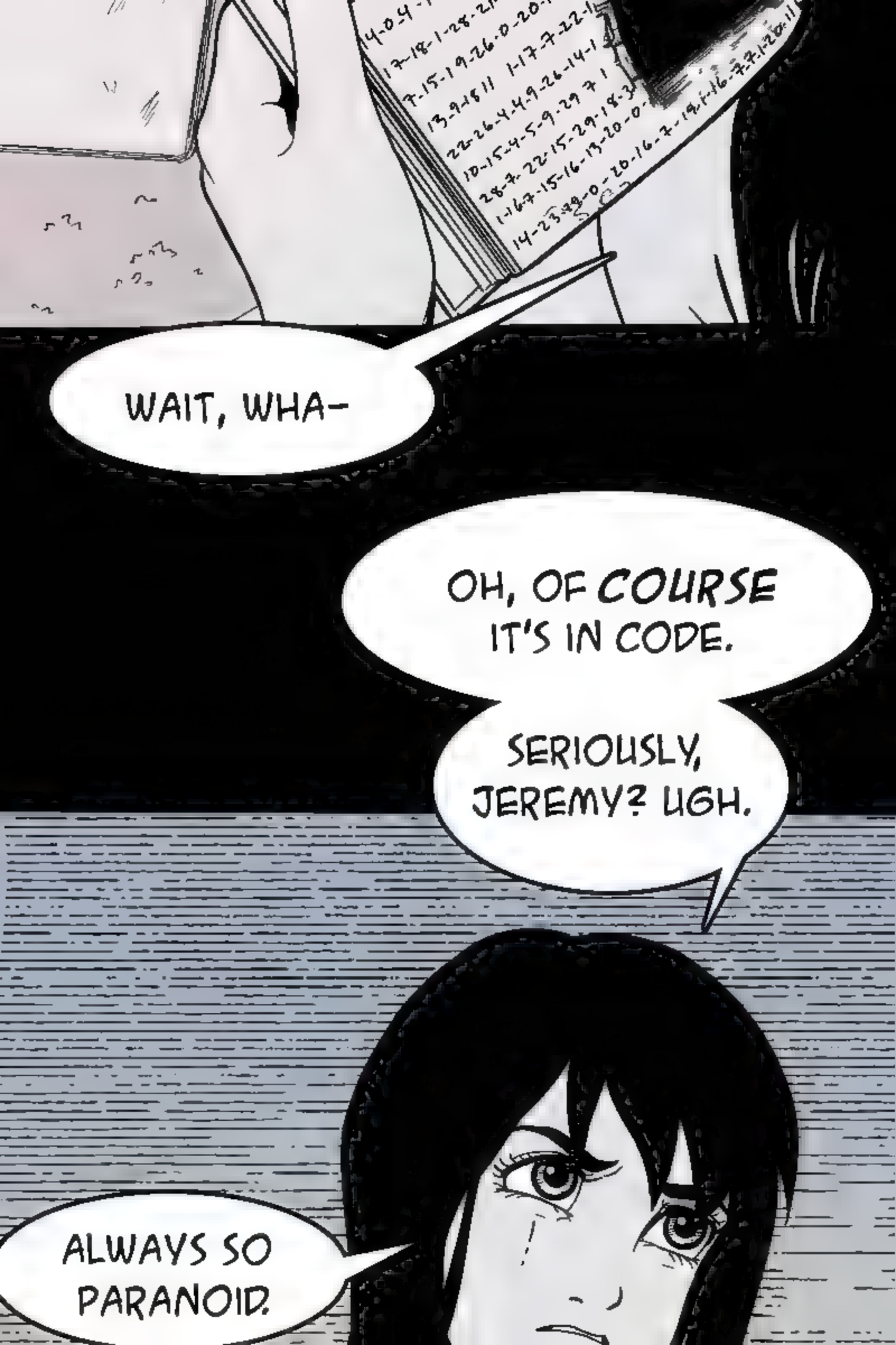
LUCKILY, JEREMY USED A SIMPLE PADLOCK, AND A FEW MINUTES OF WORK WITH A BASIC RAKE WAS ALL IT NEEDED.



CLICK!


FINALLY! LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT.

PAPERS, PAPERS, RECEIPTS...
AHA! A NOTEBOOK!


WAIT, WHA-
OH, OF COURSE IT'S IN CODE.
SERIOUSLY, JEREMY? UGH.
ALWAYS SO PARANOID.

FINE, COME BACK TO THAT ONE LATER.
MAYBE THERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF THAT WILL HELP...

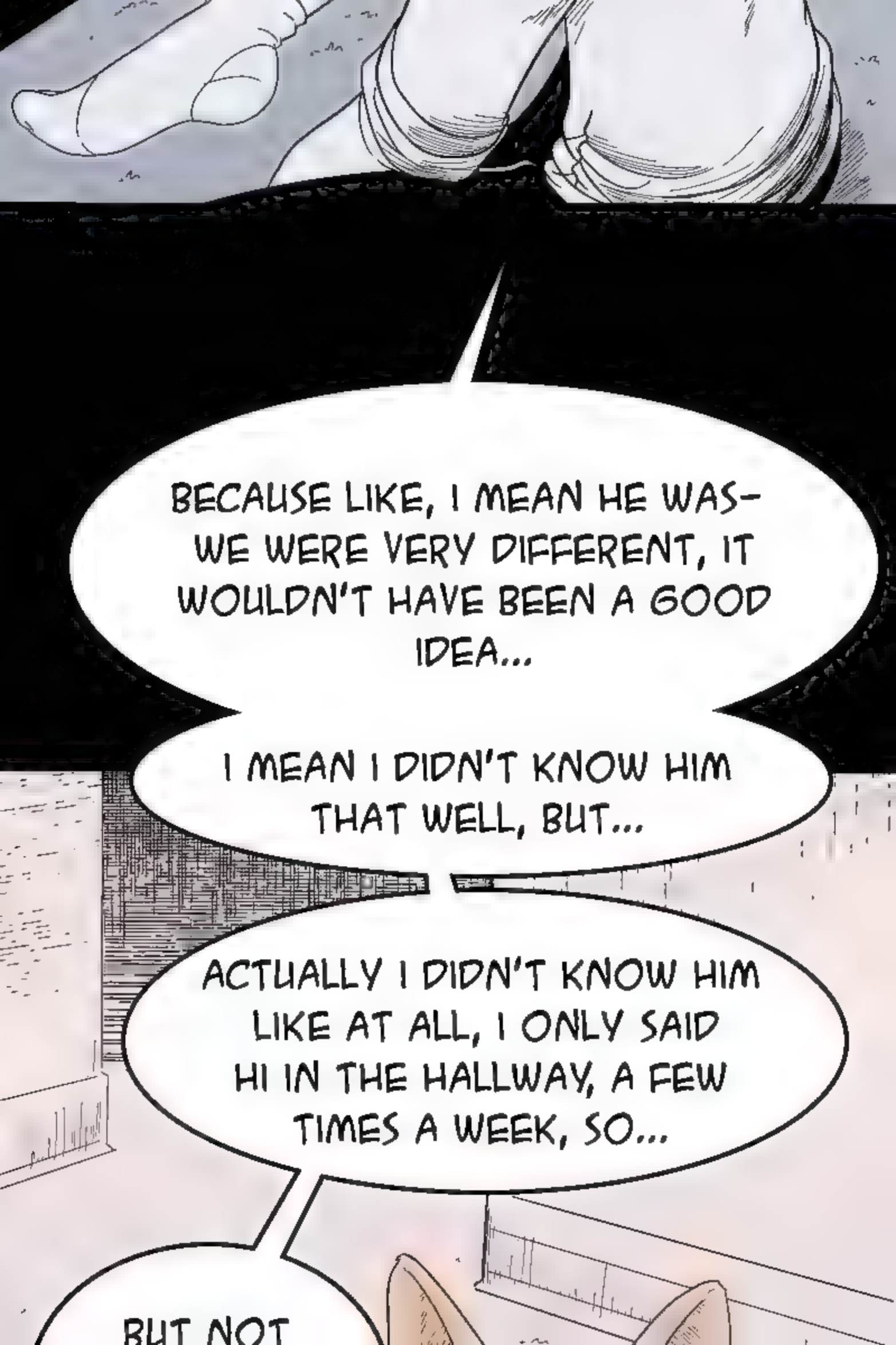
SIGH...

THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING ELSE IN HIS NOTEBOOKS...
MAYBE A M-
4-23-11-18-1-27-14-4-1-13-28-4
14-9-17-13-15-31-7-8-13-9-8-11-9
30-11? 0-23-13-7-19-1-20-17-0-9-22
7-19-8-13-7-7-1-20-18-22-1-33-7
F+J
JEREMY + FRANKIE
F
FRANKIE
FRANKIE
J + F
18-15-21-11-19-9-21-11-18-1-10-27-
19-1-28-14-0-20-27-7-8-20-7-7
5-5-13-18-0-12-17-17-4-1-27-14-4
19-9-21-13-5-9-21-5-1-28-14-4-1-14
1-31-14-14-1-9-24-4-1-22-
15-2-5-9-26-14-1-21-11 0-19-
16-11-0-12-17-25-19-5-22
25-0-20-23-7-12-25-
9-15-3-5-9-25. 15-12-
29-25-0-19-16-11-0-8-
9-25-0-16-26-11-19-20
33-7-4-25-13-25. 0-9
9-17-8-14-12-17-0-6
23-24-6-5-28-7-22
8-9-26-0-20-23-7-18
1-33-7-22-8-13-20-
0-19-16-11-0-12-23
21-10-19-9-7-
19-1-21-11.

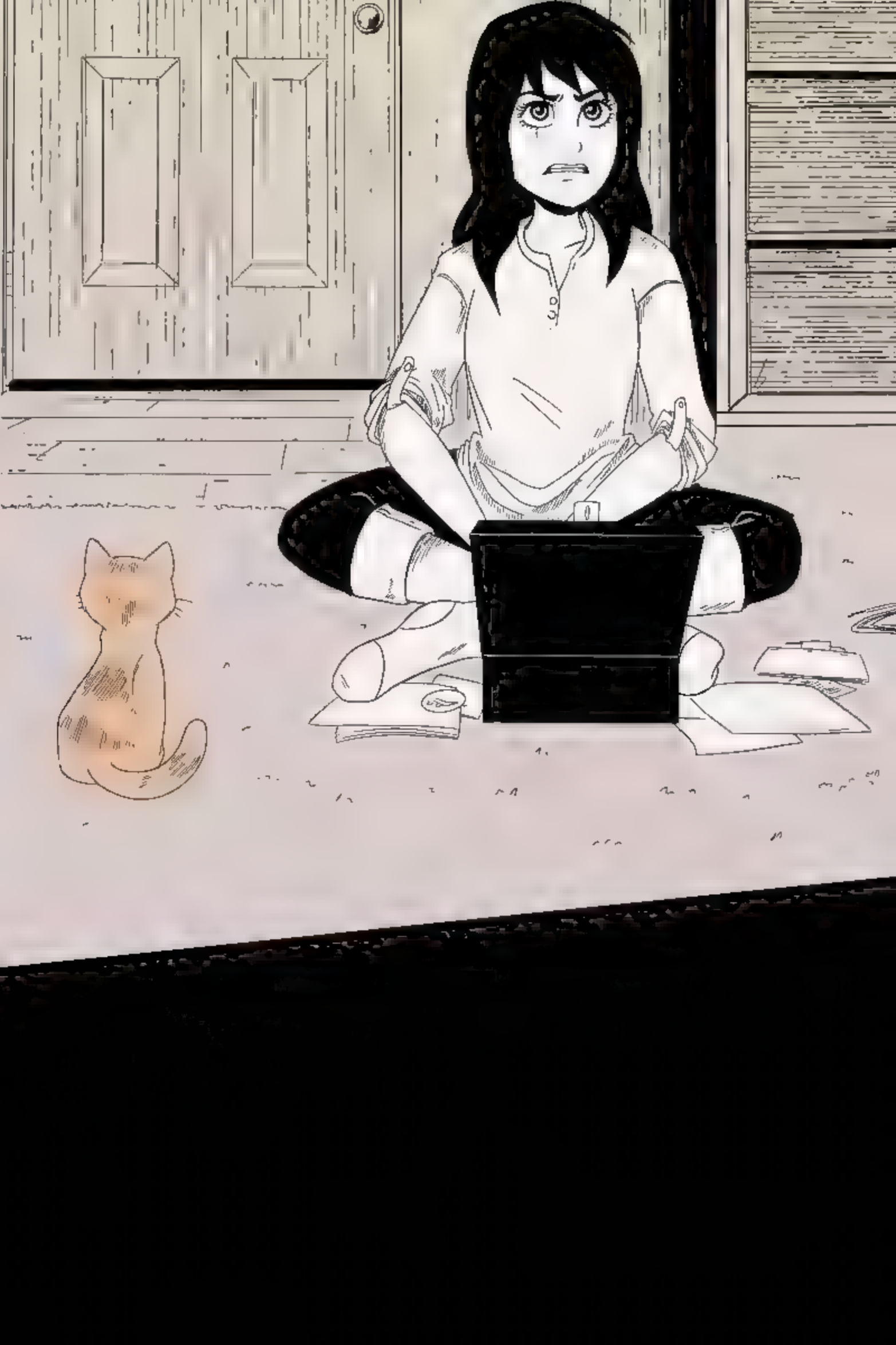
WAIT, WHAT?
F+J
F
FRANKIE
FRANKIE
J+F
OH MY GOD, NO.
JUST LIKE....EW.

EW.

OH, I MEAN, UM...NOT LIKE EW, JUST... YOU KNOW, JUST...
IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED OUT BETWEEN US.


BECAUSE LIKE, I MEAN HE WAS- WE WERE VERY DIFFERENT, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A GOOD IDEA...
I MEAN I DIDN'T KNOW HIM THAT WELL, BUT...
ACTUALLY I DIDN'T KNOW HIM LIKE AT ALL, I ONLY SAID HI IN THE HALLWAY, A FEW TIMES A WEEK, SO...
BUT NOT

"EW" THOUGH, HE WASN'T...
WHY AM I APOLOGIZING TO A CAT?!



UGH.
1970
FAIR

WHAT EVEN IS ALL THIS STUFF..

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
IT'S ALL JUST RANDOM JUNK AND CLIPPINGS...
ARCHIVES
WOODCUT ILL.
209

...AND...MEDICATION?

NO, IT'S...SOME KINDA DIRT OR POWDER?

TAP
TAP
YEP, THAT'S DIRT.

HOORAY.

THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR GOING THROUGH A CRAZY PERSON'S THINGS.
CRAZY PEOPLE STUFF.

C'MON, THERE'S GOTTA BE
SOMETHING IN HERE THAT'S
A LEAD...

JEREMY *KNEW* SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE. I'M SURE OF IT.

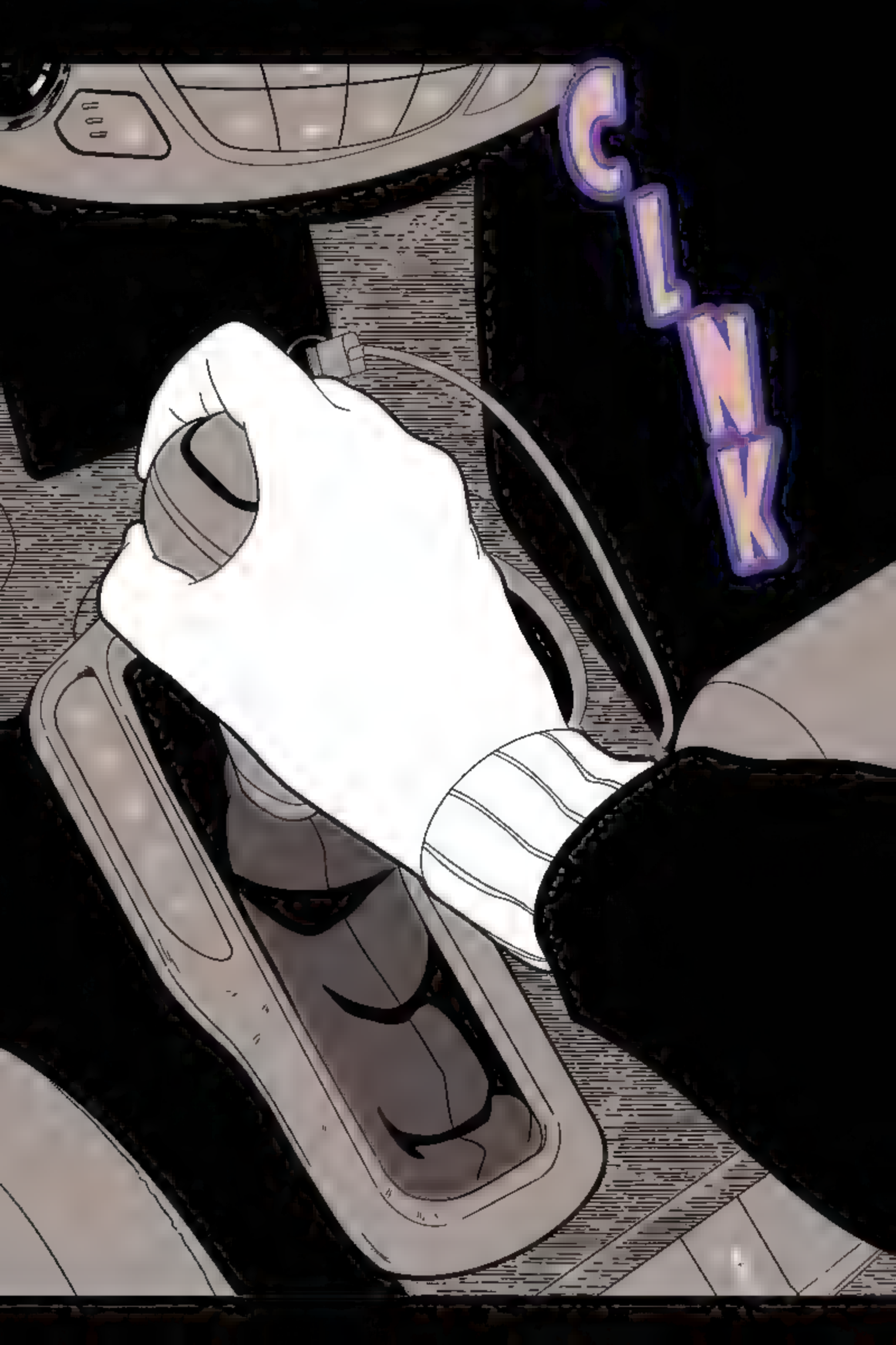
AHA! HERE'S SOMETHING.

AT LEAST, SOMETHING I CAN ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND...

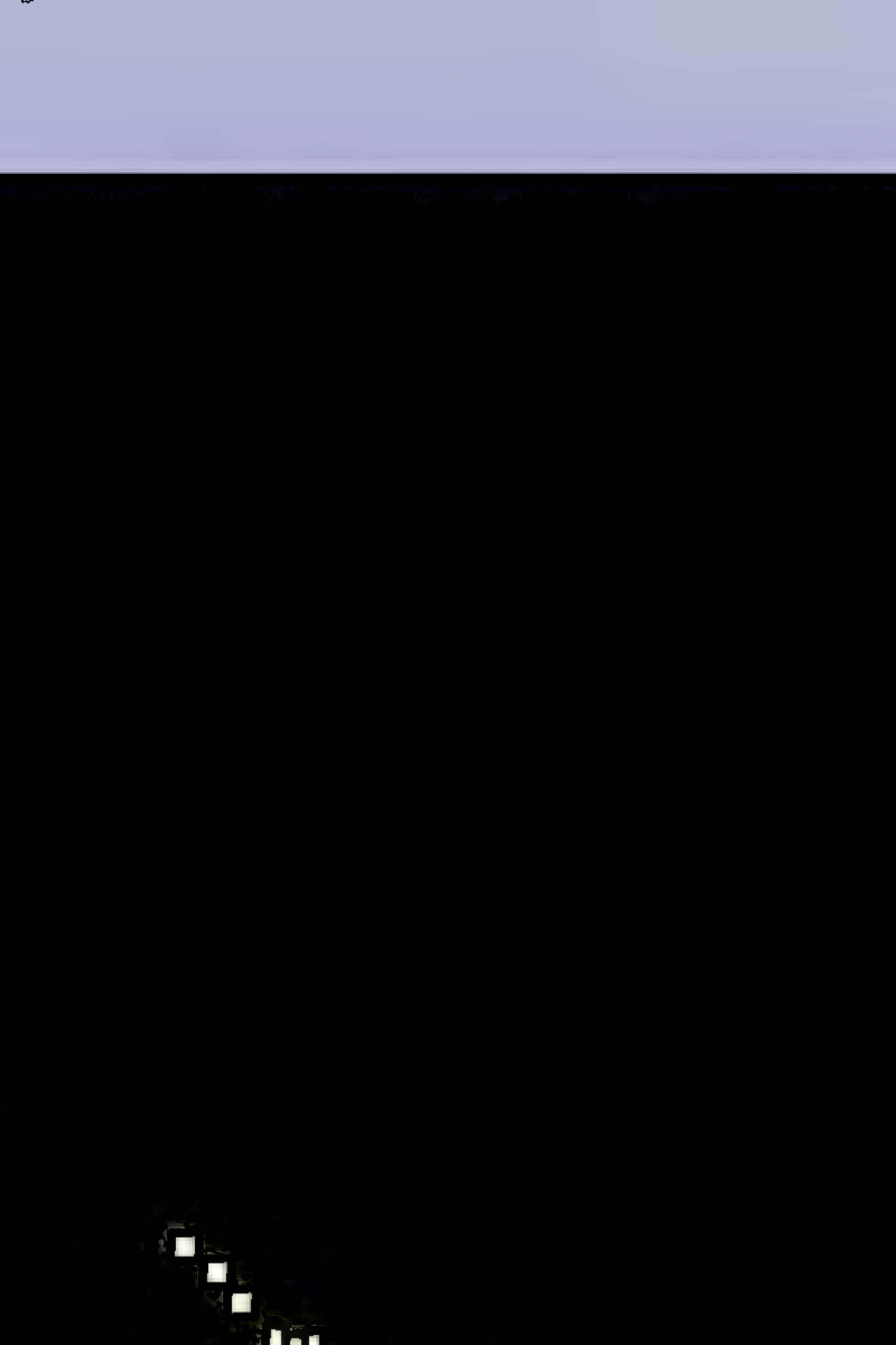
THE TOWN CAROUSEL.

A HISTORY

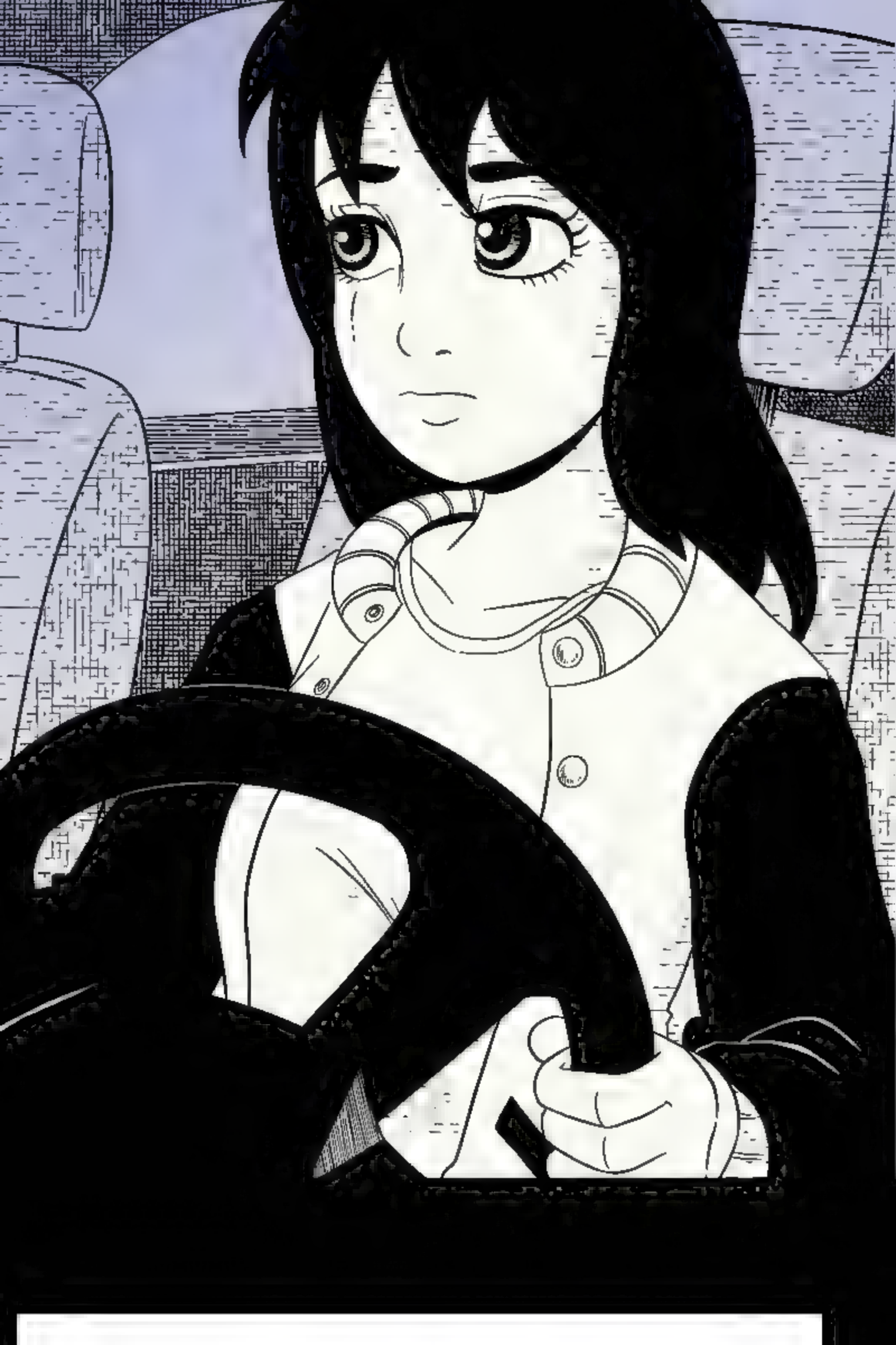
STAGTOWN'S
CAROUSEL
HERITAGE
HAVEN'T BEEN THERE IN A WHILE. LET'S TAKE A RIDE OVER.


CLINK

VRMMMMM

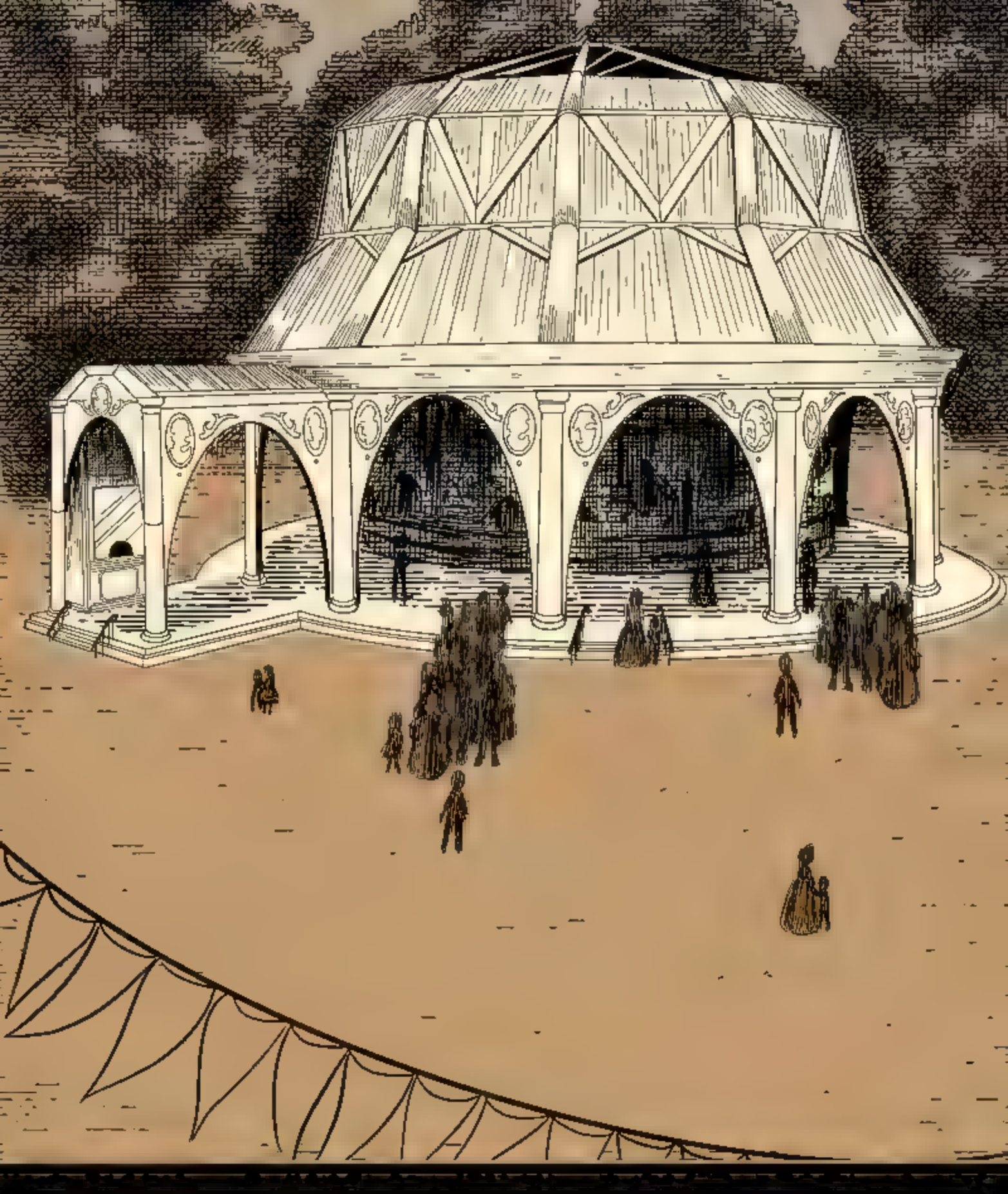


IT'S WEIRD...I HAVEN'T BEEN BY THE TOWN'S CAROUSEL IN AGES.



BUT I KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF IT...

I KNOW IT WAS BUILT A LONG TIME AGO ON THE EDGE OF TOWN, PROBABLY AROUND THE TURN OF THE LAST CENTURY.



I GUESS CAROUSELS AND CARNIVALS WERE BIG ENTERTAINMENT BACK THEN. STAGTOWN HAD ONE OF THE FIRST EVER CAROUSELS IN

THE COUNTRY, WAY EVEN BEFORE THIS ONE.

SO LONG AGO THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE JUST MADE THAT UP.

SO THE TOWN CAPITALIZED ON THE HISTORY BY BUILDING THIS

NEW CAROUSEL AS SOME KIND OF TOURIST ATTRACTION.

BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING LIKE SITTING ON A HORSE FOR SEVERAL HOURS...

...JUST TO COME HERE AND SIT

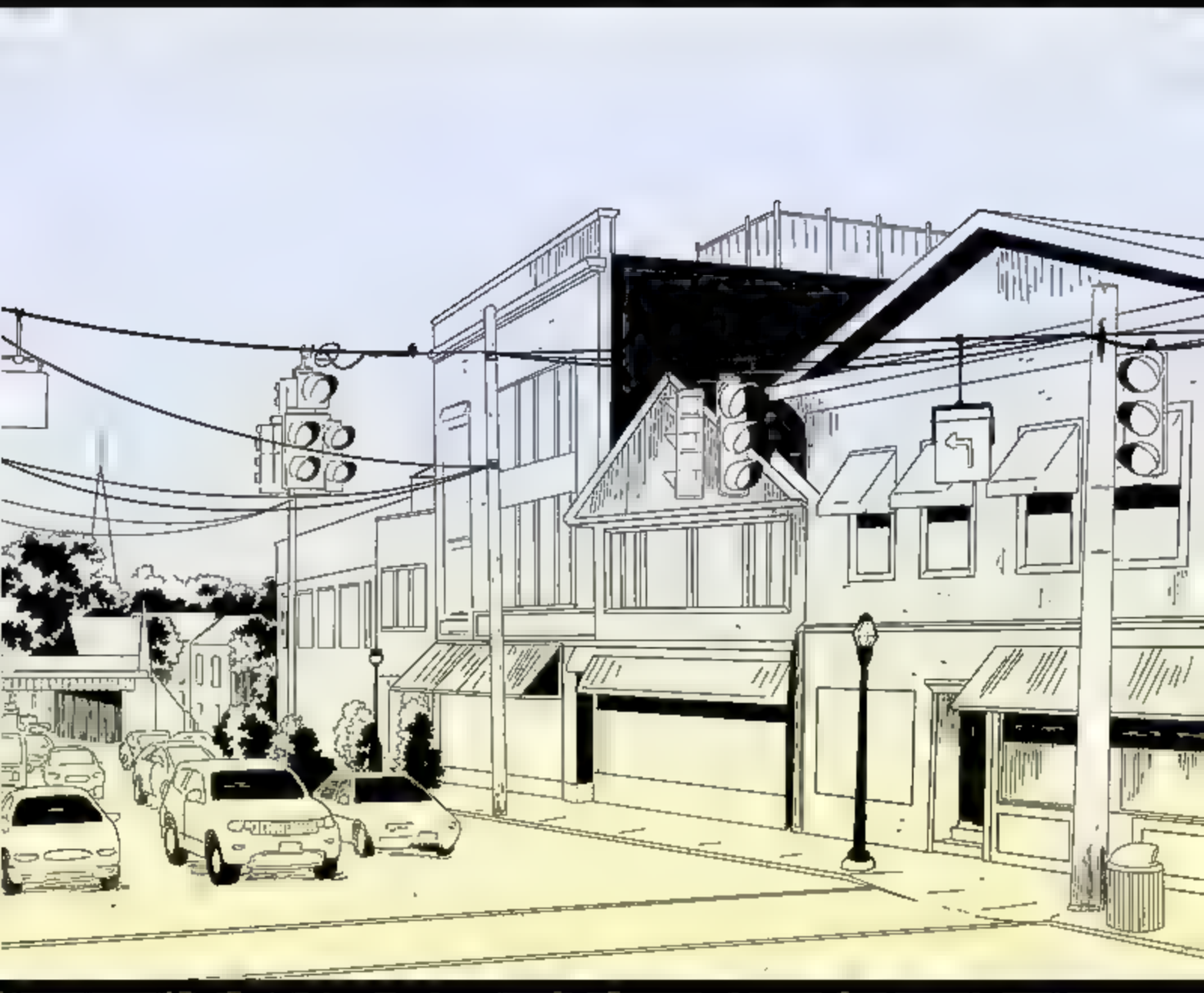
ON A FAKE HORSE FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

OR MAYBE THEY RODE IN CARRIAGES OR SOMETHING, I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW HOW OLD-TIMEY PEOPLE WENT ON VACATION.

ANYWAY.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE CAROUSEL

HAS TO DO WITH JEREMY'S RESEARCH.

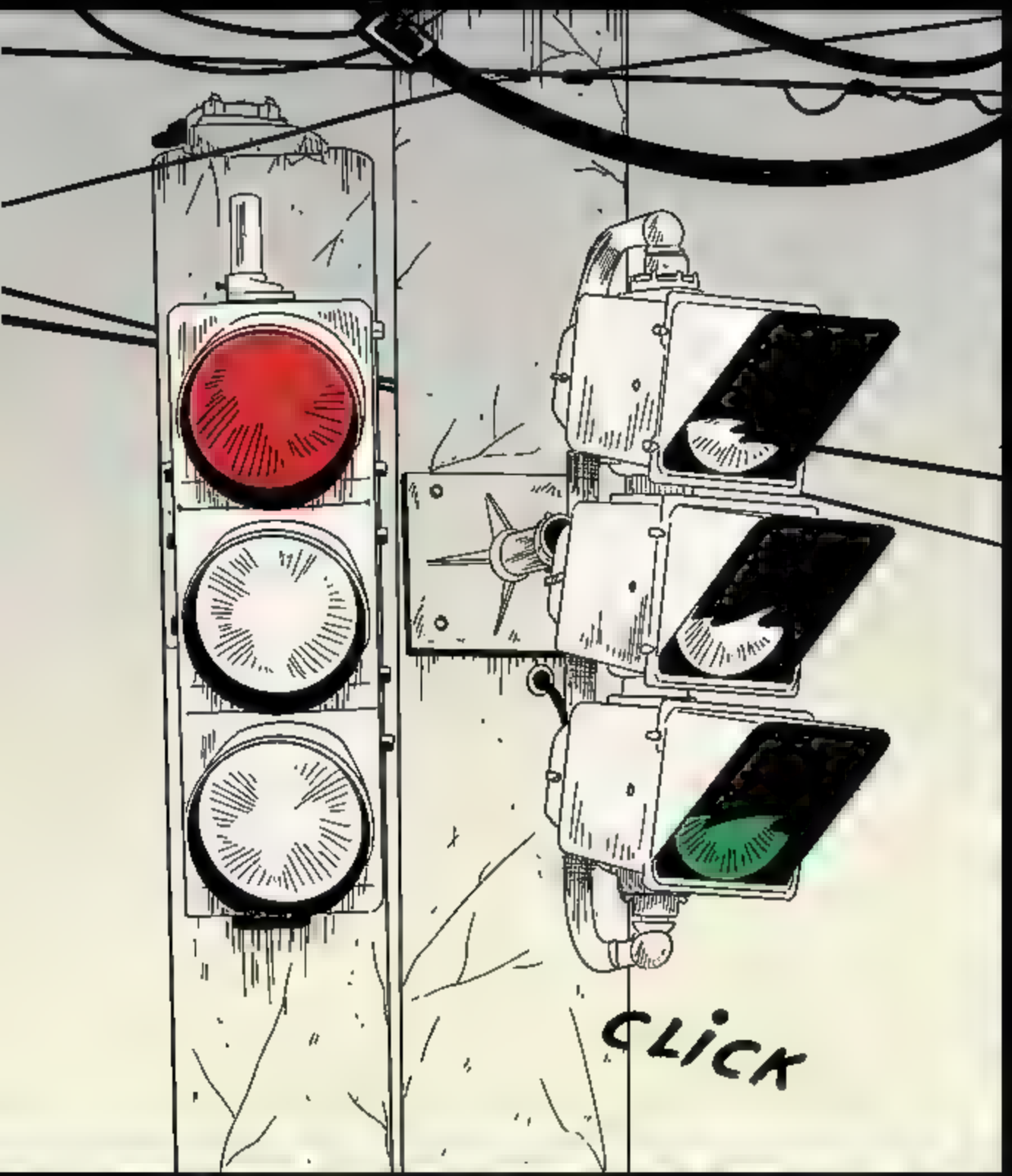


MAYBE NOTHING AT ALL. MAYBE HE JUST KEPT THAT ARTICLE BECAUSE

IT WAS INTERESTING.

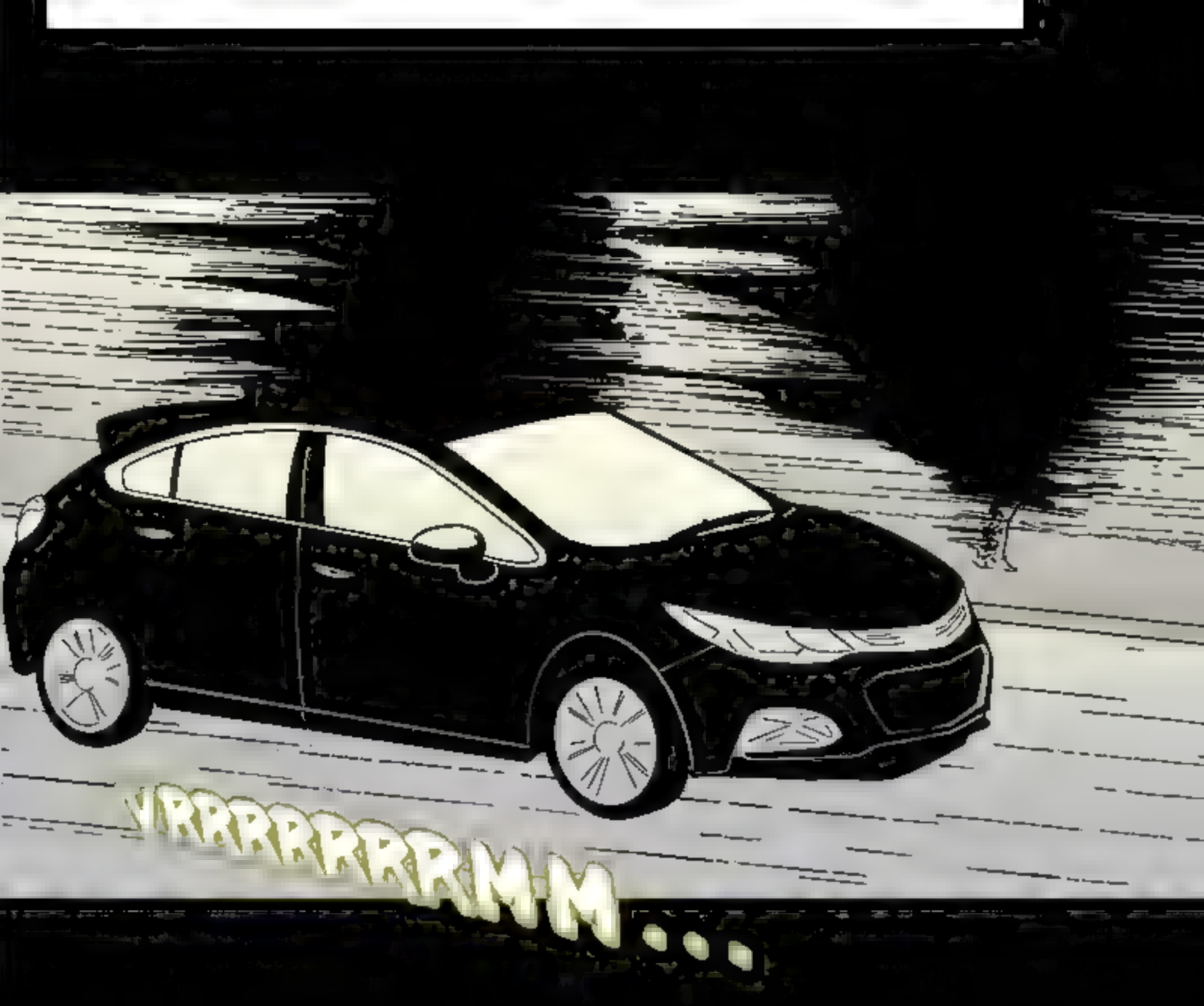
I SHOULD GO BACK AND TACKLE THAT STUPID CODE, TRY TO GET

SOME INFO FROM HIS JOURNALS.



BUT I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL FOLLOW UP ON THIS, THEN SORT THE REST OF THE LOCK BOX AND SEE IF ANYTHING AT ALL STANDS OUT.

HONESTLY, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO LOOK AT THIS POINT.

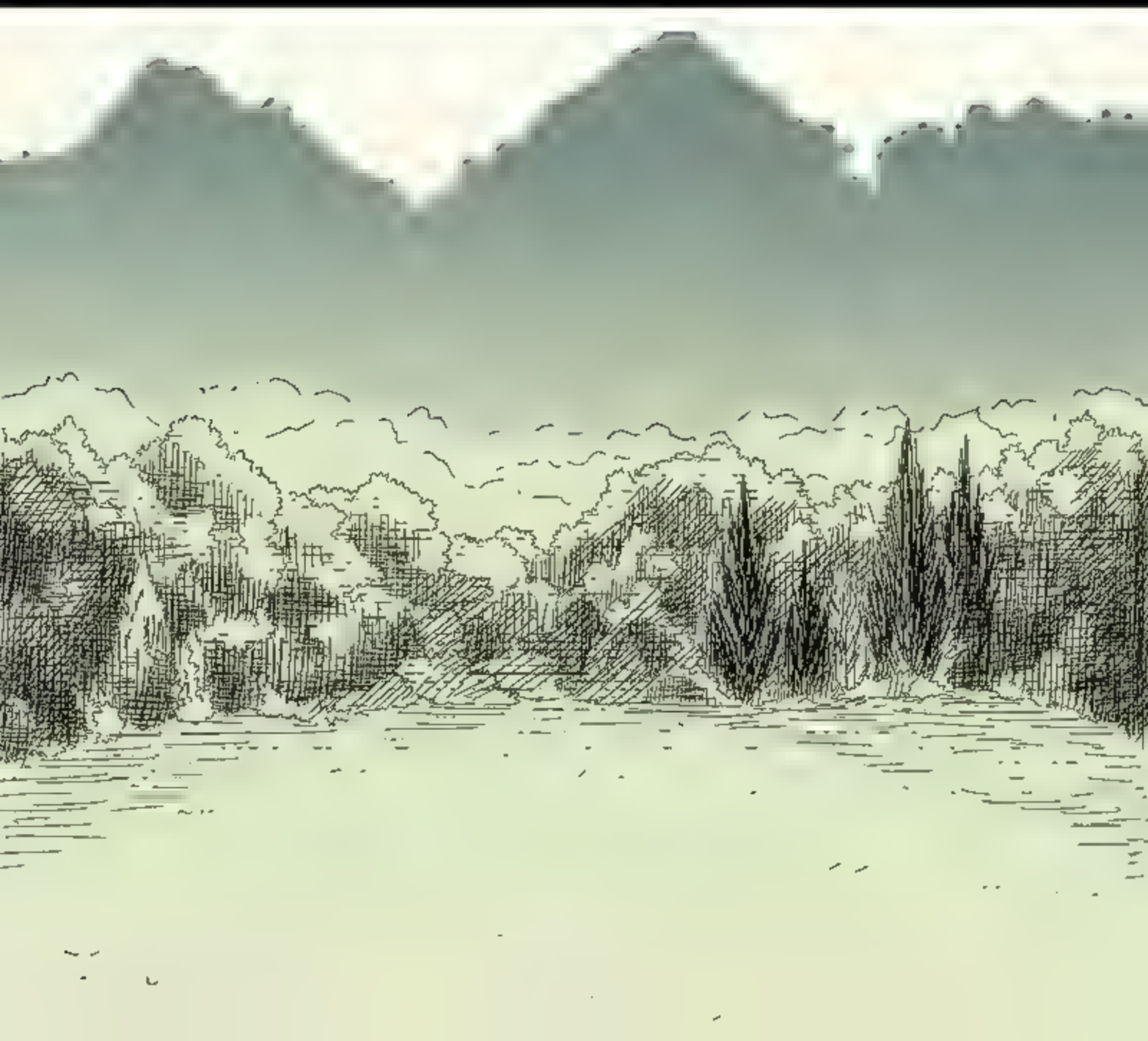

VRRRRRRRRMM...

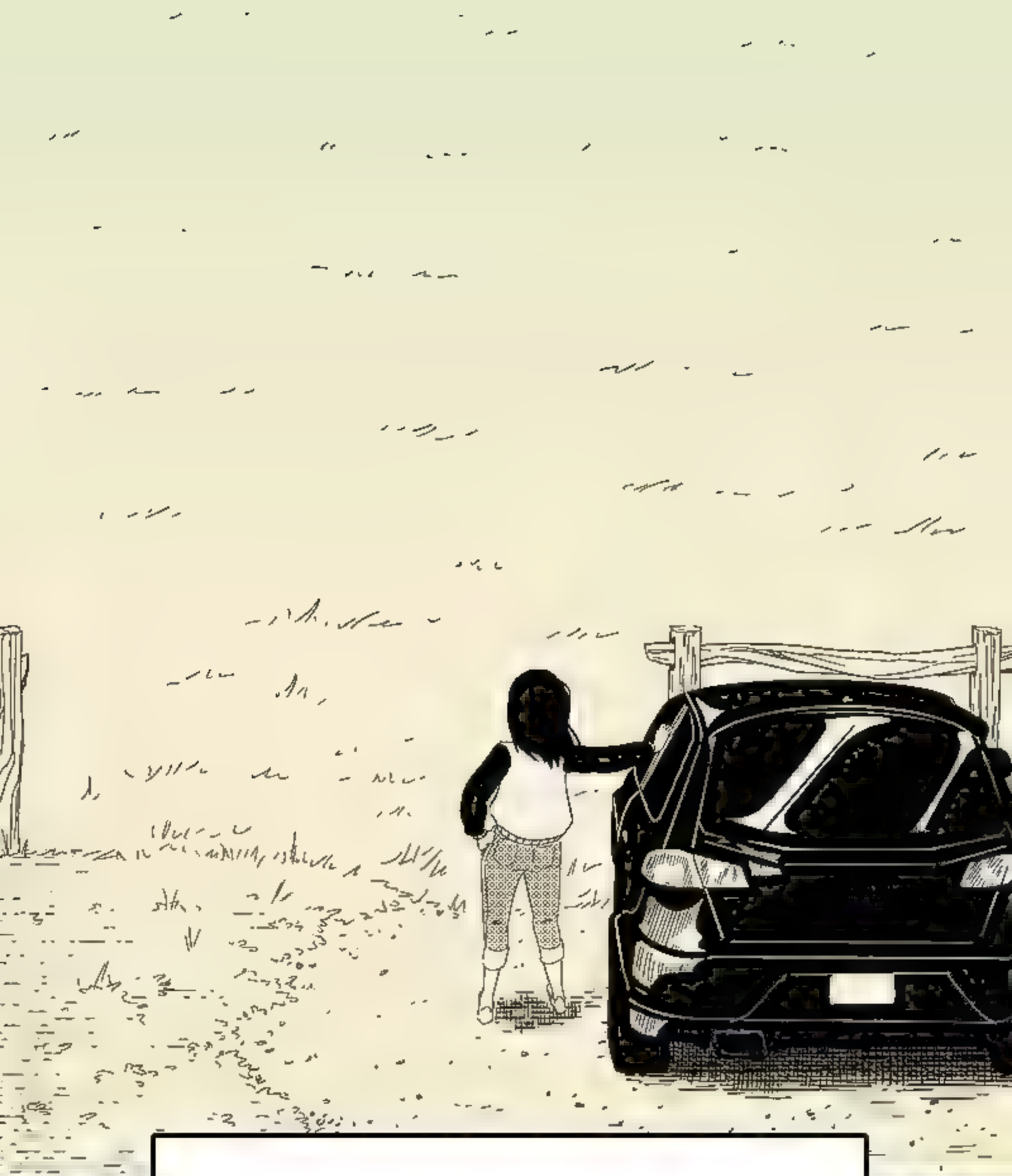
SCRRRRNNNCH

IT SEEMS KIND OF ODD, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.

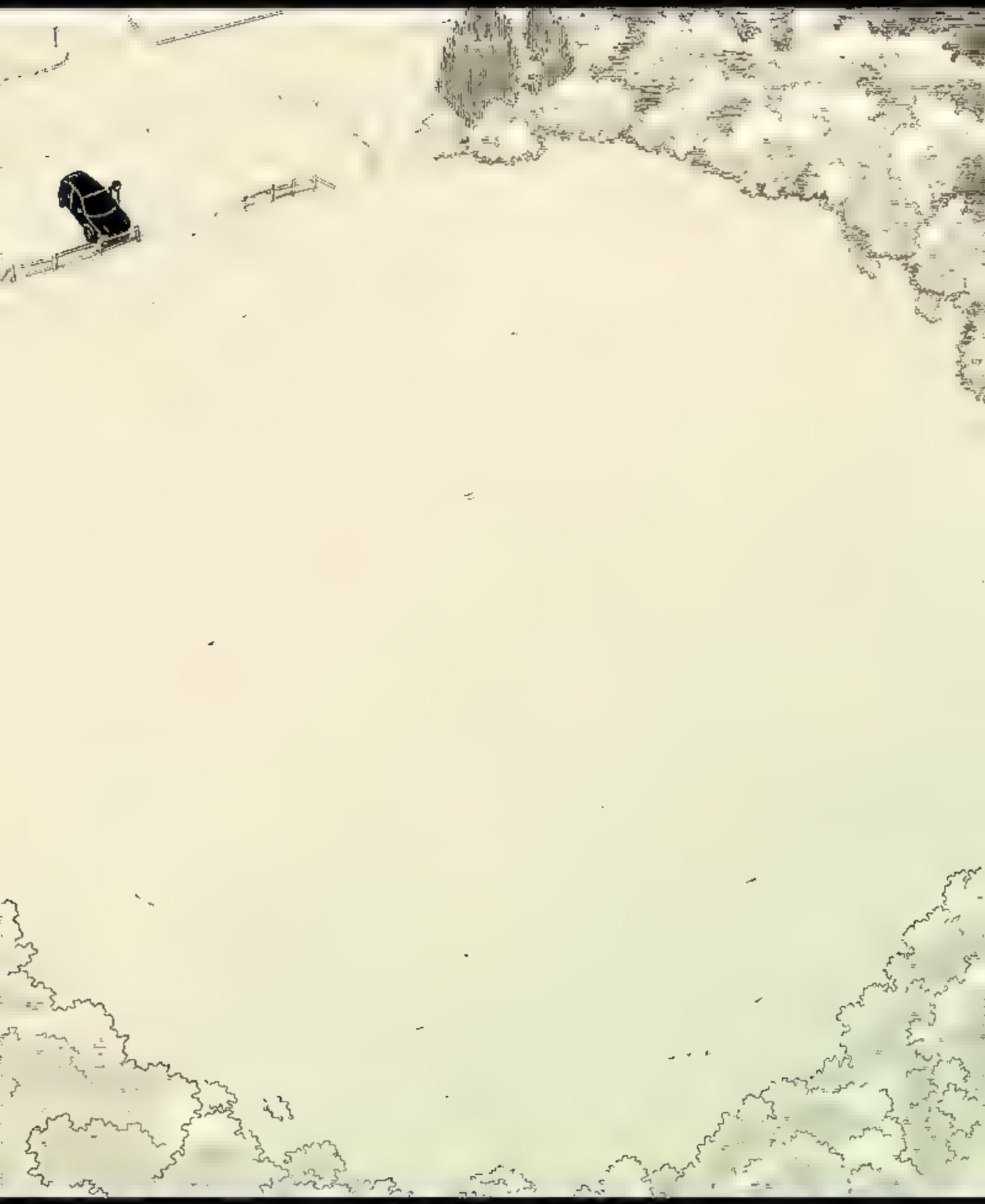
EVERYONE STILL CALLS IT

EVERYONE STILL CALLS IT "THE CAROUSEL" ...





...EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.



THE ACTUAL CAROUSEL WAS TORN DOWN DECADES AGO. ONLY THE CIRCULAR FIELD IT SAT IN REMAINS NOW.

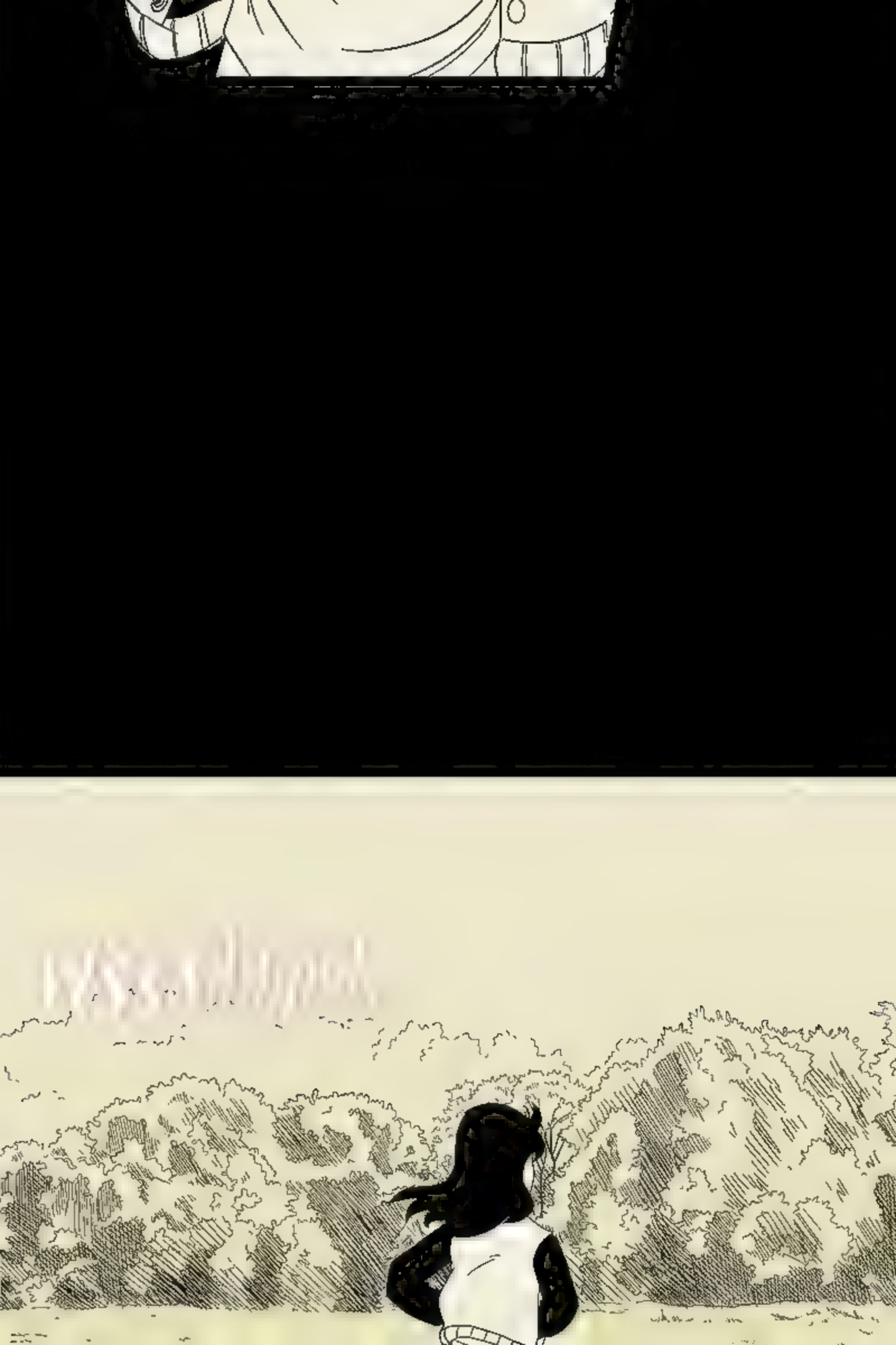
PEOPLE STILL CALL THE FIELD "THE CAROUSEL" THOUGH.

LIKE, "EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE CAROUSEL THIS WEEKEND!" OR "FLEA MARKET THIS SATURDAY AT THE CAROUSEL!"

I GUESS IT'S BETTER THAN JUST SAYING, "THE BIG EMPTY FIELD AT THE END OF HALL ROAD."

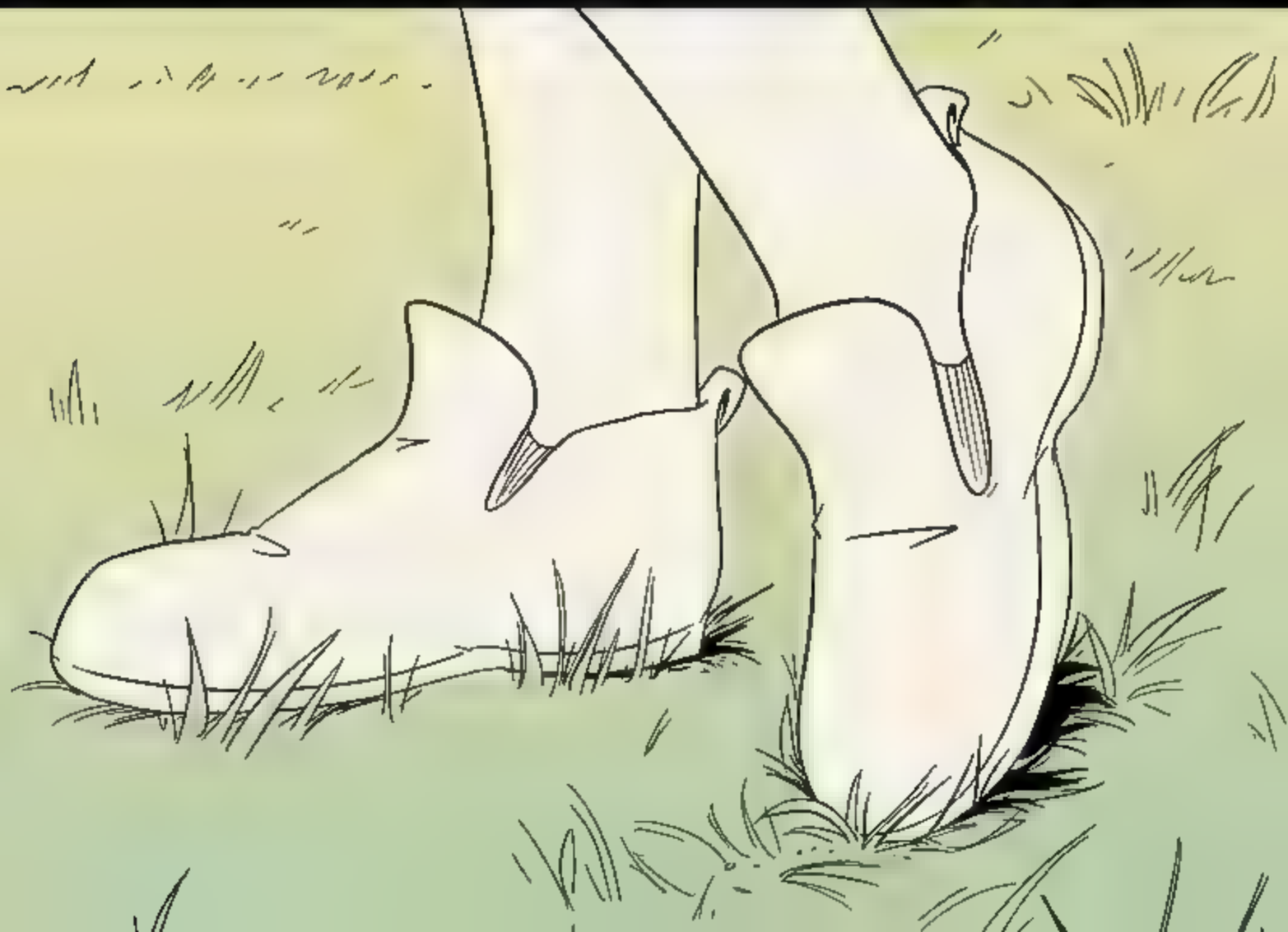
HMPH.

GUESS I SHOULD... LOOK AROUND?

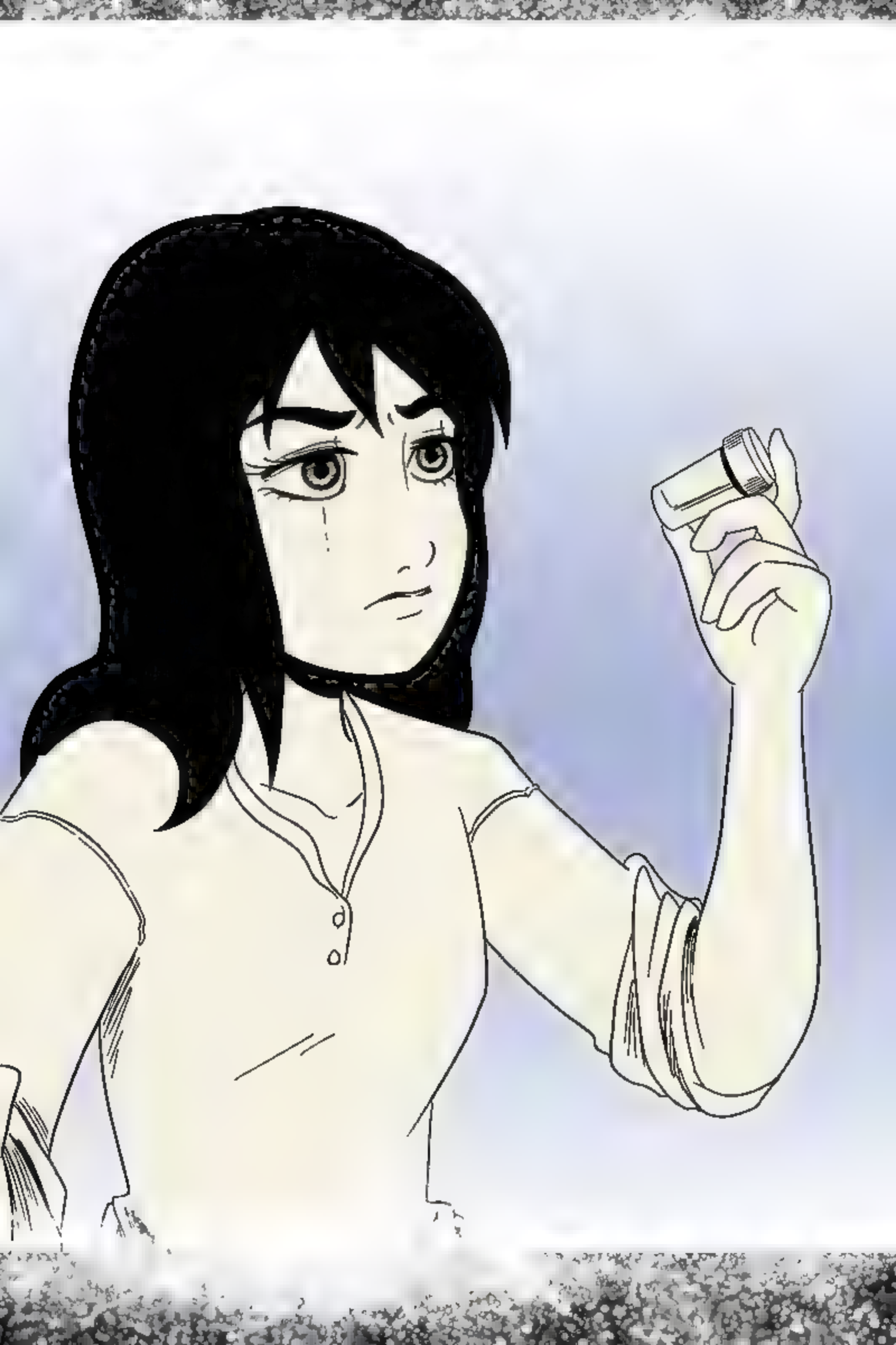


WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?

THERE'S JUST...GRASS AND DIRT.



WAIT...



TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

TAP

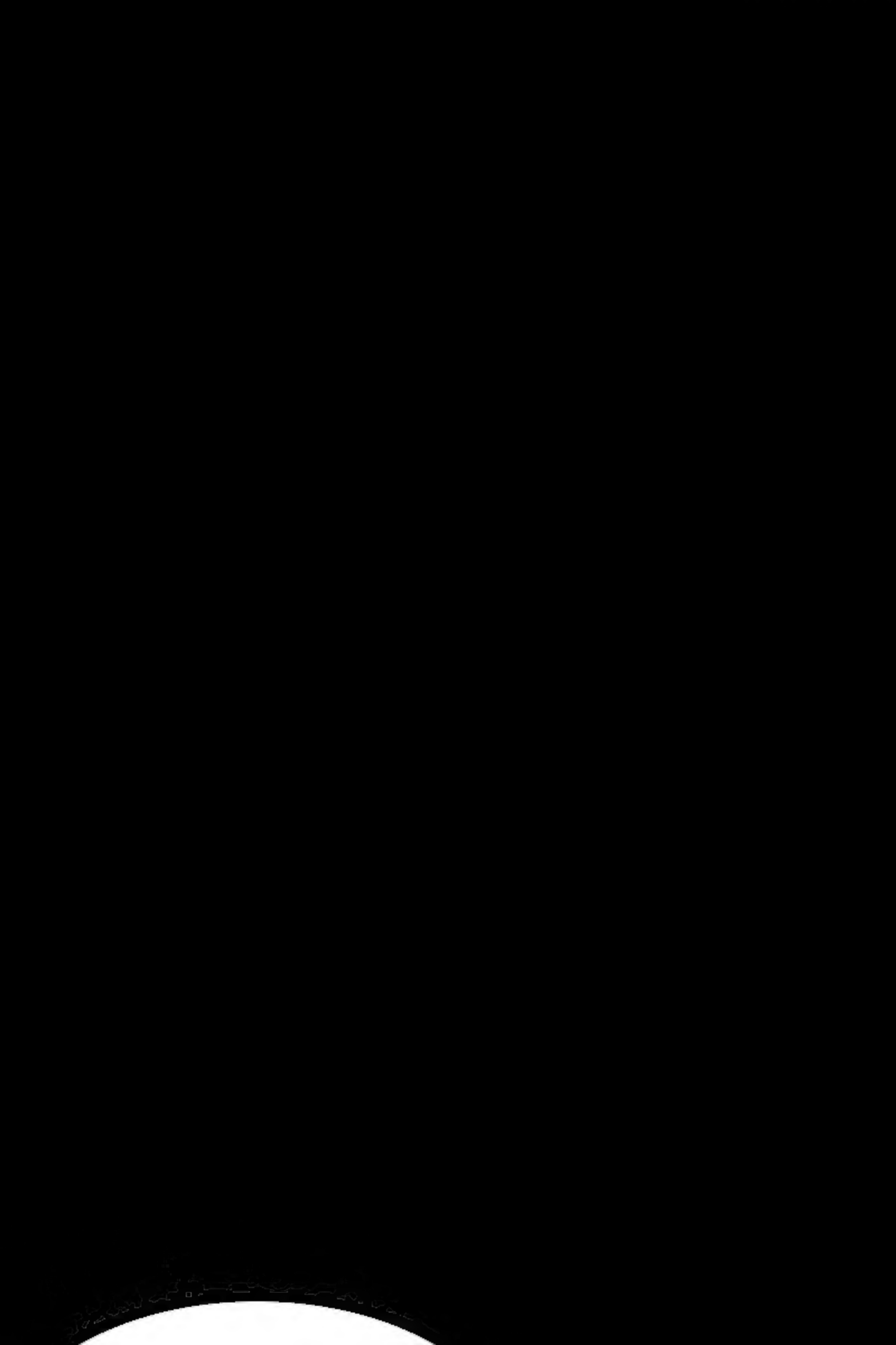
TAP

RING.....

RING.....

HELLO, RALPH'S HARDWARE.
HI THERE, DO YOU RENT METAL DETECTORS?

YES MA'AM.
OH GOOD.
WHAT TIME ARE YOU OPEN UNTIL TODAY?



WANT TO HELP OTHERS SOLVE THE STAGTOWN MYSTERY? THERE'S A FAN DISCORD FOR YOU!

HTTPS://DISCORD.GG/HJWNJJ3JB3

AND A REDDIT!

WWW.REDDIT.COM/R/STAGTOWNN (TWO NS)

HAVE A LOVELY WEEK, MY CREEPY CHILDREN! BE GOOD!